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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
GENERAL STAFF, UNITED STATES ARMY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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TOP SECRET CONTROL  
INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, GSUSA

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17 AUG 1948

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: IM-202: Review of CIA Estimate ORE 60-48: Threats  
to the Security of the United States (Published  
28 September 1948) Revised Draft.

1. Reference is made to CIA Memorandum, subject as above,  
dated 10 August 1949.

2. The Intelligence Division, GSUSA substantially dissents  
from those parts of the Memorandum which, in referring to ORE  
60-48, imply that the U.S.S.R. is unlikely within the next decade  
to resort to war, unless it believed itself to be in imminent  
danger of attack by the Western Powers. In view of the highly  
complex and explosive situations, currently existing in Germany,  
the Balkans and the Far East, and the uncertainty that Soviet  
Communist leaders can obtain their essential intermediate  
objectives within the next ten years without resort to arms,  
the Intelligence Division believes it is extremely unwise to  
conclude without qualification that the U.S.S.R. is unlikely  
to resort to war to gain its ends for a period as long as ten  
years.

3. The Intelligence Division further disagrees with the  
positive statement in paragraph 5 that the danger of war will  
be less during the next year or two than at any time in recent  
years. Although a number of recent developments are cited as  
evidence of reduced tension and lessened likelihood of a Soviet  
political decision to resort to war, an equally impressive list  
of indications in the contrary direction could be drawn up.

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The fact remains that the military balance of power has not improved in favor of the West in the past year or two; if anything, it has shifted in favor of the U.S.S.R. because of Communist victories in China and the continuing rearmament and streamlining of the Soviet Armed Forces. Short-range actions and attitudes of the U.S.S.R. in the international field, however peaceful or conciliatory in appearance, are tactical moves and may have little or no bearing on Soviet military intentions.

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~~Special~~  
S. LEROY IRWIN  
Major General, GSC  
Director of Intelligence

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